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OCT 23 2006

In the Claims:

1. - 268. (Cancelled)

269. (Currently Amended) A visual prosthesis comprising:

| an internal electronics unit, implanted suitable for implantation within a living body, at least a portion of said internal electronics unit is formed within a biocompatible hermetic package; and

| a plurality of electrodes driven by said internal electronics unit suitable for stimulating visual neurons to create a perception of a visual image.

270. (Previously Presented) The visual prosthesis according to claim 269, wherein said biocompatible hermetic package is a hermetic box.

271. (Previously Presented) The visual prosthesis according to claim 270, wherein said hermetic box includes a metal portion and a ceramic portion.

| 272. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim 271, wherein said ~~metal portion is braised to said ceramic portion~~ further comprising a braised joint between said metal portion and said ceramic portion.

| 273. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim ~~269~~ 271, further comprising a flip chip electrically connected to feed throughs in ~~a said~~ a ceramic portion.

| 274. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim ~~271~~, wherein said ~~metal portion includes a metal ring braised to said ceramic portion and a metal lid welded to said metal ring~~ 271, wherein said metal portion comprises a metal sidewall joined with a metal top by a weld joint.

275. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 269, wherein said biocompatible hermetic package is a thin film.

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276. (Previously Presented) The visual prosthesis according to claim 269, wherein said biocompatible hermetic package is partially a thin film and partially a hermetic box.

277. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim 275¹, wherein said biocompatible hermetic package is a thin film is a diamond coating.

278. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 275, wherein said thin film is aluminum oxide.

279. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 275, wherein said thin film is zirconium oxide.

280. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 275, wherein said thin film is selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, tantalum oxide and aluminum nitride.

281. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 275, wherein said thin film is selected from the group consisting silicon oxide, silicon nitride, and silicon carbide.

282. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 275, wherein said thin film is applied by ion-beam assisted deposition.

283. (Currently Amended) A visual prosthesis comprising:
a plurality of electrodes suitable for stimulating a retina; and
an internal electronics device controlling said plurality of electrodes and positioned-suitable for positioning within a vitreous humor, but distant from a retina.

284. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim 283, wherein said internal electronics device is suitable to be positioned in the center of the vitreous humor.

285. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim 283, further comprising a thin film hermetic diamond like coating applied to said internal electronics device.

286. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 285, wherein said thin film is a diamond like coating.

287. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 285, wherein said thin film is aluminum oxide.

288. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 285, wherein said thin film is zirconium oxide.

289. (Currently Amended) A visual prosthesis comprising:
an internal electronics unit, ~~implanted~~ suitable for implantation within a living body in the vicinity of an eye, at least a portion of said internal electronics unit is formed within a biocompatible hermetic package; and
a plurality of electrodes driven by said internal electronics unit suitable for stimulating a retina to create a perception of a visual image.

290. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim ~~269~~ 289, wherein said biocompatible hermetic package is a hermetic box.

291. (Previously Presented) The visual prosthesis according to claim 290, wherein said hermetic box includes a metal portion and a ceramic portion.

292. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim 291, ~~wherein said metal portion is braised to said ceramic portion~~ further comprising a braised joint between said metal portion and said ceramic portion.

293. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim ~~289~~ 290, further comprising a flip chip electrically connected to feed throughs in ~~a said ceramic portion.~~

294. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim 291, ~~wherein said metal portion includes a metal ring braised to said ceramic portion and a metal lid welded to said metal ring.~~ 291, wherein said metal portion comprises a metal ring joined with a metal top by a weld joint.

295. (Currently Amended) The visual prosthesis according to claim 289, wherein said biocompatible hermetic package is a diamond like thin film.

296. (Previously Presented) The visual prosthesis according to claim 289, wherein said biocompatible hermetic package is partially a thin film and partially a hermetic box.

297. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 295, wherein said thin film is a diamond coating.

298. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 295, wherein said thin film is aluminum oxide.

299. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 295, wherein said thin film is zirconium oxide.

300. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 295, wherein said thin film is selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, tantalum oxide and aluminum nitride.

301. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 295, wherein said thin film is selected from the group consisting silicon oxide, silicon nitride, and silicon carbide.

302. (Withdrawn) The visual prosthesis according to claim 295, wherein said thin film is applied by ion-beam assisted deposition.

303. (Withdrawn) An implantable device comprising:

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a ceramic substrate having feed throughs; and
active electronics supported by said ceramic substrate and electrically coupled to said feed throughs.

304. (Withdrawn) The implantable device according to claim 303, wherein said active electronics is an integrated circuit.

305. (Withdrawn) The implantable device according to claim 303, further comprising a hermetic package wherein said ceramic substrate forms part of said hermetic package.

306. (Withdrawn) The implantable device according to claim 303, wherein said implantable device is part of a visual prosthesis.

307. (Withdrawn) The implantable device according to claim 306, wherein said visual prosthesis is a retinal prosthesis.

308. (Withdrawn) The implantable device according to claim 303, wherein a side of said ceramic substrate opposite said active electronics is adapted to contact tissue.

309. (Withdrawn) An implantable device comprising:
a ceramic substrate having feed throughs;
a plurality of capacitors electrically coupled to said feed throughs and supported by said ceramic substrate; and
active electronics electrically coupled to said plurality of capacitors.

310. (New) A method of making an implantable device comprising:
making an electronics circuit suitable for stimulating neural tissue;
coating said electronic circuit with a ceramic by ion-beam assisted deposition; and
electrically coupling electrodes to said electronic circuit.

311. (New) The method according to claim 310, wherein said step of coating comprises coating with aluminum oxide.

312. (New) The method according to claim 310, wherein said step of coating comprises coating with zirconium oxide.

313. (New) The method according to claim 310, wherein said step of coating comprises coating with a material selected from the group consisting of titanium oxide, tantalum oxide and aluminum nitride.

314. (New) The method according to claim 310, wherein said step of coating comprises coating with a material selected from the group consisting silicon nitride, and silicon carbide.